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9 December 1982

Libya-Chad Military Situation

Libya is now concentrating on increasing aid to Chadian dissidents to oust Chadian President Habre.

- In recent months, the Libyans have provided infantry weapons, ammunition, petroleum supplies, and light vehicles to the 1000-man force of ex-President Goukouni in northern Chad along with some Libyan advisers.
- Goukouni's forces are being augmented by Chadians recruited with Libyan assistance and transported through Benin to Libya for infiltration into northern Chad.
- Unconfirmed reports indicate that Libya is encouraging some 750 Chadian oppositionists in neighboring Central African Republic associated with ex-Vice President Kamougue to become active in southern non-Muslim Chad.

Tripoli does not seem to be preparing for an early large scale intervention in Chad by Libyan forces.

- Libyan garrisons, logistics facilities, and airfields in the north likely to be involved in such preparations appear generally quiet.
- Libya has too few maneuver and combat support units, as well as strike aircraft, ready to go in the south.

Qadhafi will be tempted to invade Chad, but faces some powerful constraints.

- The Libyan military is not eager to reenter Chad, and such a move could provide fuel for yet another coup attempt. Also Libya does not have cash to waste on foreign adventures because of reduced oil earnings.
- A second invasion of Chad would end any lingering chance Qadhafi has of becoming OAU chairman and would elicit substantial foreign aid for Habre's ability to resist Libyan forces.

Habre has about 1500 lightly armed men in his northern bases and only 200 dependable northern troops in Chad's south.

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- Barring a direct Libyan incursion, Habre's forces can repel limited rebel attacks in the north but will be hindered by ammunition and transport shortages.
- Habre will have difficulty maintaining order if guerrilla activity breaks out in the south.

Modest new military aid is on the way to Habre, including small shipments of ammunition from Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

- A Moroccan military delegation is in N'Djamena to assess Habre's military needs.

[redacted] on Tuesday that no decision on military aid has been made. We have seen indications that the government may be divided over the issue and that Mitterrand will make the final decision.

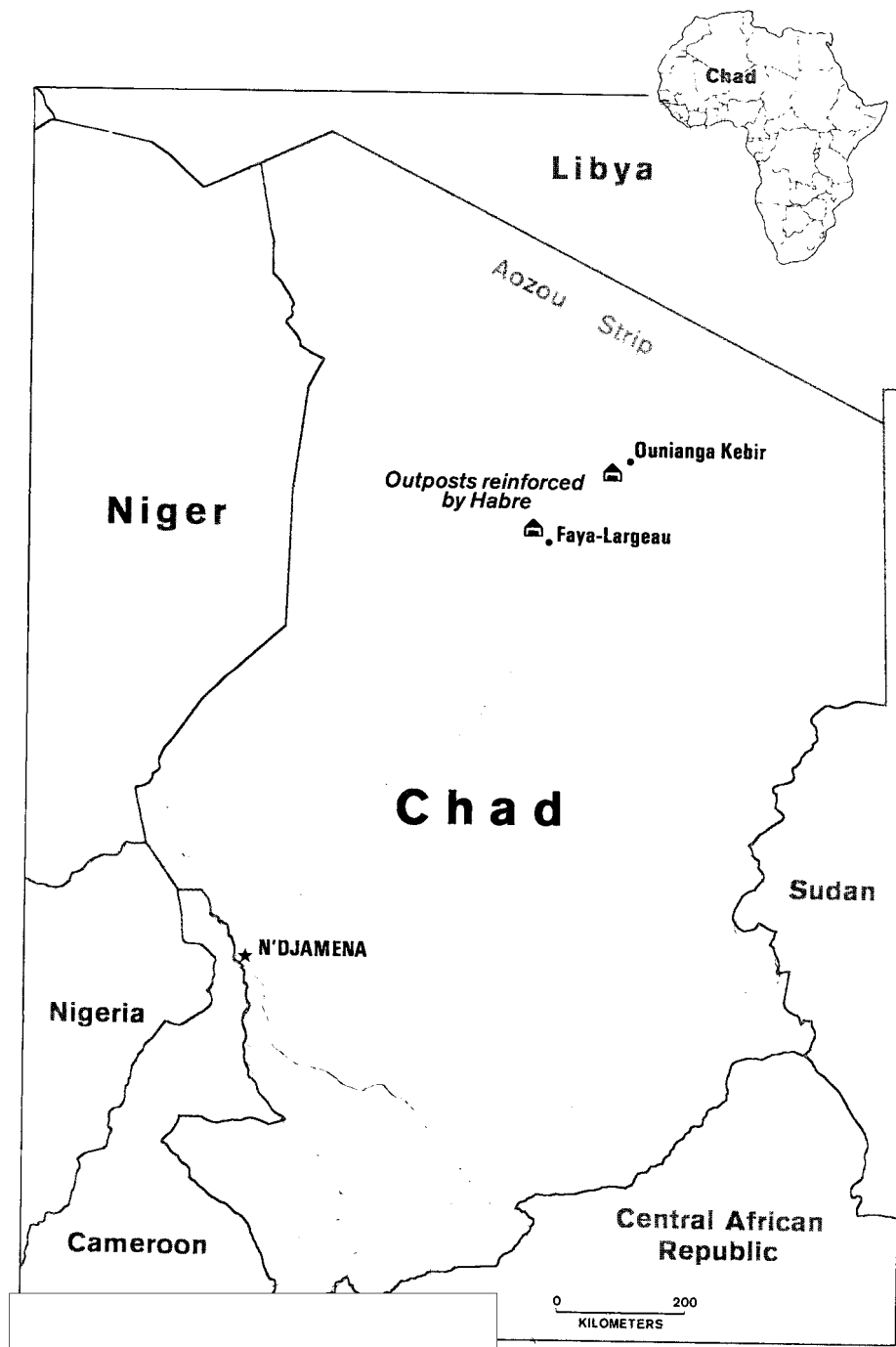
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- The official suggested that aid would not be forthcoming short of a direct Libyan attack.
- Other officials reportedly have argued, however, that some military assistance--not including French troops--is necessary to prevent further weakening of Chad's ties to France.
- [redacted] a military study mission to Chad says that Habre's top priorities are air transport capability and light arms and equipment.

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